Observations of Bhatti Committee

2051. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 275 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th May, 1990 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhatti Committee visited certain retailers, wholesale chemists and drug manufacturing units to study the pattern of trade margin;

(b) if so, what are the names of the parties visited and when was each visited;

(c) what are the details of issues on which the Committee obtained data;

(d) what are the main factors on which the Committee made study and what are its observations on each;

(e) what are the details of the main recommendations of the committee and by when his Ministry would take decision thereon;

(f) whether it is also a fact that Standing Committee appointed recently is reviewing the reports of certain Committees; and

(g) if so, what are the names of the committees and by when review on each would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) The National Council of Applied Economic Research which carried out a survey independently, sent investigators to visit traders and secure information in accordance with pre-prepared questionnaire. It was through this survey by the National Council of Applied Economic Research that the data was put together to make an estimate of trade margins available to the traders currently.

(b) The National Council of Applied Economic Research carried out the survey of over 1200 retailers and wholesalers spread over 77 towns in 10 States.

(c) and (d) The National Council of Applied Economic Research in its survey was mainly concerned with data on costs and returns with a view to estimate the trade margins as now available.

(e) The Draft Report submitted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research on trade margin is being examined.

(f) and (g) The Standing Committee is a permanent Committee and will consider all issues concerning DPCO, 1987, which are brought before the Government.

Consideration of Drugs by Standing Committee

2052. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 91 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th May, 1990 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are several other drugs which do not fulfil any of the exclusion criteria of Kelkar Committee besides 165 bulk drugs which are being considered by the Standing Committee on the basis of re-presentations;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to identify those drugs;

(c) what are the details of other issues regarding pricing of drugs being considered by the Standing Committee;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Standing Committee has made certain recommendations; and

(e) if so, when and what are the details of those recommendations and what action has been taken on each?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The list of 165 bulk drugs annexed in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 91 answered on 7th May, 1990 contains all such bulk drugs for which

representations for wrong exclusion have been received as on March, 1990.

(c) The Standing Committee constituted by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals will consider all matters connected with review of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 and the representations made on various policy issues concerning DPCO 1987, including/ inclusion/exclusion of drugs in the Scheduled Categories.

(d) and (e) As already answered in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 707 dated 14.5.90, it is not in public interest to disclose the recommendations of the Standing Committee at this stage.

Production of drugs from imported intermediates

2053. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the recommedations of Hathi Committee those companies which were producing drugs from the imported intermediates were required to produce drugs from basic stages within a period of two years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of companies are still importing intermediates even after a lapse of one decade;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this is resulting in outgo of foreign exchange;

(d) what are the names of the companies which are producing drugs from imported intermediates since more than two years;

(e) what are the names of intermediates going into the production of each drug and since when each is being produced from intermediate stage; and

(f) what is the ex-factory cost of production of each drug and what is the percentage of import contents to ex-factory cost?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Hathi Committee had recommended that foreign companies producing bulk drugs from penultimate stage should manufacture within a period of two years, the bulk drugs concerned from the basic stage.

(b) and (c) Several drugs in the country are being produced from intermediate stage due to various reasons, the prominent among which are technological constraints.

(d) to (f) Information asked for is too voluminous and time and labour involved in collection and compilation of information will not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

Recovery of overcharged amounts

2054. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry refunded the overcharged amount of Rs. 30.11 lakhs to M/s. Warner Hindustan;

(b) if so, on what ground;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the same amount was taken back;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what are the reasons for which the full amount was not recovered;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the special team did not assess the liability of M/s. Merind which was involved in the Supreme Court case;

(f) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(g) what are the names of the drugs of M/s. Merind involved;

(h) whether it is also a fact that set offs have been allowed in certain cases contrary to the opinion of the Department of Legal Affairs; and

(i) if so, what are the details of set offs allowed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) A cheque of Rs. 30.11 lakhs sent by M/s.